Remarks

Claims 1-8, 11-13 and 17, 18 and 20-34 remain pending in the application.

Claim 5 has been amended to cure the indefiniteness identified by the Examiner.

The Office Action rejects claims 13, 18 and 22 through 34 as directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 13, 18, 22 through 34 have been amended to meet the utility requirement of 35 U.S.C. §101.

Claim 13 is amended to clarify that the encoded binary string of bit-plane symbols is obtained from bit symbols generated by a data source, in particular a video, still image or audio source. This amendment is supported by the original specification and claims, e.g. the encoding method as described in pages 13-16 as well as original claim 1, wherein the encoding method encodes the bit symbols to produce the encoded binary string of bit-plane symbols. Claim 13 is also amended to clarify that the decoded data represents the bit symbols generated by the data source, which is supported by page 17, 1st paragraph of the specification. In addition, claim 13 is amended to define that the decoded data is output as the video, the still image or the audio, and support for this amendment can be found in page 13, line 17-19 of the specification. Applicants submit that, with these amendments, claim 13 now more clearly satisfies the "machine-or-transformation" test.

With respect to claim 18 and 34, these claims were originally directed to a computer readable medium. Also, claim

33 was also originally directed toward a device. To add further clarity, these claims have been amended in a manner consistent with claim 13. Claims 18 and 34 have been amended to require that the computer readable medium has a program which is to make the computer execute a procedure for processing bit symbols generated by a data source, in particular a video, still image or audio source and provide output that represents the data from such real-world objects in an encoded form. Claim 33 has been amended to require that the device execute a procedure for processing bit symbols generated by a data source, in particular a video, still image or audio source and provide output that represents the data from such real-world objects in an encoded form. Therefore, these claims now more clearly satisfy the "machine-or-transformation" test.

Conclusion

This response has addressed all of the Examiner's grounds for rejection. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims is requested.

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